

To: Palmieri, Anne Marie G (DEC)[annemarie.palmieri@alaska.gov]
From: Marcy, Ken
Sent: Fri 8/14/2015 9:32:43 PM
Subject: RE: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

Hey Anne Marie – just getting caught up on emails today – with the Gold Hill release, things have been crazy! Thanks for your quick response – I don't anticipate that this will impact your work at all.

On the Cooperative Agreement front I saw that my Division Director signed off – so all should be good – let me know if there are any hold ups. Let's touch base next week when you're back – hope all is well,

Ken

Ken Marcy | Regional Mining Coordinator, national priorities list coordinator

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marcy.ken@epa.gov

From: Palmieri, Anne Marie G (DEC) [mailto:annemarie.palmieri@alaska.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 6:50 PM
To: Marcy, Ken
Subject: RE: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

Hi Ken:

In September, we are planning to visit the following abandoned mines: 1) Ellamar Mine, 2) Threeman Mine, 3) Schlosser Mine, and 4) Fidalgo Mine. All four of these former copper mines are located near Valdez on Prince William Sound. There are tailings and/or waste rock located in the uplands and the inter-tidal areas. Our sample collection activities will include upland soils and inter-tidal sediment. We may sample sediment and surface water from freshwater streams, if we find them at the sites. We won't be using any heavy equipment – just hand tools. We aren't going to do anything that could cause a release; there aren't any dams or impoundments at any of these sites.

We were also informed of a battery dump on Healy Creek near Fairbanks which may be associated with an old mine. A miner in the area notified Alaska Fish & Game staff and they called us about it. Monte Garrouette is looking into this to see if it would be a good site to look at under site discovery.

Let me know if you need more information...Anne Marie.

From: Marcy, Ken [<mailto:Marcy.Ken@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 3:33 PM
To: Palmieri, Anne Marie G (DEC)
Subject: RE: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

Hey Anne Marie – can you do me a big favor? HQ is asking for our list of upcoming assessments under cooperative agreement in AK and ID – can you send me the sites you are planning on visiting in Sept, with a very quick description of the event (i.e. collecting soils with hand trowel, sediments, surface water, etc.). Also, if you know anything about these sites in terms of adit discharge, tailings facilities, seeps – that would be helpful. What they want to know is if we're doing anything that could cause a release – I just need to allay their fears (no heavy equipment – no messing around in adits or with adit plugs, no tampering with tailing facilities). Hate to ask you for this while on travel – I can refer to the plan, but I'm assuming you have a more concrete list of sites for September at this point. If at all possible, can you get me this tomorrow? Thanks, Ken

From: Palmieri, Anne Marie G (DEC) [<mailto:annemarie.palmieri@alaska.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 1:42 PM
To: Marcy, Ken
Subject: RE: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

Hi –

I was just in a meeting with Jim Woolford and he mentioned this directive. Jennifer told him that Region 10 had already let its States know about it and gave you some kudos.

Just so you know..... Anne Marie.

From: Marcy, Ken [<mailto:Marcy.Ken@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 8:06 AM
To: Palmieri, Anne Marie G (DEC); Dana.Swift@deq.idaho.gov
Subject: FW: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

Anne Marie, Dana – I'm trying to get further clarification on this, just wanted to make sure that you don't have crews in the field right now working on any mines – can you let me know? Also if you have plans for the immediate future to be out on any mines?

Ken Marcy | Regional Mining Coordinator, national priorities list coordinator

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From: Werntz, James
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 9:02 AM
To: Marcy, Ken; Tomten, Dave; Hood, Lynne; Weigel, Greg

Subject: FW: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

fyi

James H. Werntz

Director, EPA-Idaho Operations

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From: McLellan, Dennis
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 9:58 AM
To: R10-ET Mail Group
Subject: FW: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

FYI Please implement this directive immediately. If we have any concerns about specific sites please let me know immediately.

Dennis

From: **Administrator/Ex. 6**
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 8:51 AM
To: Blumenfeld, Jared; Curry, Ron; Enck, Judith; Garvin, Shawn; Hague, Mark; Hedman, Susan; McGrath, Shaun; McLellan, Dennis; McTeerToney, Heather; Spalding, Curt
Cc: Fritz, Matthew; Stanislaus, Mathy
Subject: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

Good morning everyone,

While we continue to investigate the root causes of last week's release of mining waste at the Gold King Mine in Colorado, we are instructing our Regions to immediately cease any field investigation work at mines including tailings facilities, unless there is imminent risk in a specific case. We are in the process of initiating an independent assessment by a sister federal agency or another external entity to examine the factors that led to last week's incident. Based on the outcome from that assessment, we will determine what actions may be necessary to avoid similar incidents at other sites. While we stand down on existing field investigations and assessments at these mining sites, we also are instructing our Regions to identify existing sites with similarities to the Gold King Mine site and to identify any immediate threats and consider appropriate response actions.

If you have questions or wish to discuss a particular situation please reach out to Mathy.

Thank you.